

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

As an independent video producer I work on documentary projects using various sources including print, audio and video. In the process of creating a final product I will gather items from all three of these media. A digital broadcast flag on future DTV content preventing independent producers like myself from copying and gathering information will limit future independent documentary productions which do not exist in the other media i.e. print and audio. A digital broadcast flag should not be implemented as it will limit future innovations and productions by independent producers and researchers like myself.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? As an independent producer I work at various locations including places like Amtrak trains while traveling from New York to Washington. Not allowing DTV and future technologies to be downloaded onto laptops and other future technologies over networks will restrict and limit the work of researchers and producers.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

As an independent producer I and many other consumers do not have extra money to spend on any new equipment that would be required because of a digital flag implementation. This would further limit consumers and researchers from gathering information.

Other Comments:

Copyright restrictions already protect media content providers including, print, audio and television. Producers like myself have to respect such laws and are protected by it for our own content. There is no need to provide any other protections than those that currently exist such as a digital flag.